Increasing the strength of Hight Court Judges

905. SHRF BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be ple'ased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the St'ate Governments to increase the strength of judges in the High Courts in view of the large number ©f cases pending disposal and

(b) if so, what efforts have been made by Government to increase the strength of judges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers and Chief Fustices concerned with 14 High Courts were addressed by the Central Government in June, 1985 to cosider augmentation ,of judge - for speedy disposal of pending cases. On the basis of proposals received from several High Courts, the creation of new posts of Judge*/Addi tiorial Judges was agreed to in principle. As,on 30.7.1987, 81 new posts have been agreed to be sanctioned.

प्राकृतिक गैस की उपलब्धता

906. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस समय देश में कितनी मात्रा में प्राकृतिक गैस उपलब्ध है और उसका कितना उपभोग होता है तथा आगामी तीन वर्षों में इसको बढ़ाने की क्या योजना है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प दत्त): वर्ष 1986-87 के दौरान देश में प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन लगभग 27 मिलियन घन मीटर प्रति दिन था जिसमें लगभग 19 मिलियन घन मीटर प्रतिदिन उपयोग की गई । अगले तीन वर्षों के दौरान 1990 तक 45 मिलियन घन मीटर प्रतिदिन तक उत्पादन पहुंचने की संभावना है । बढ़े हुये उत्पादन का अधिकतर भाग साउथ बेसिन गैस क्षेत्रों की विशाल परियोजना से आयेगा और एच बी जे पाइपलाइन के साथ-साथ बनाये जा रहे उर्वरक संयंत्रों और बिजली घरों तथा अन्य छोटे उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा मुख्य रूप से इसका प्रयोग किया जायेगा ।

Financial performance of public sector Enterprises

907. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that wrong rrade policies, inappropriate location, improper technology, irrationally desigred production and poor marketing arrangemets are some of the major reasons that have been identified by the high-powered Economic Advisory council for the poor financial per-formancc of the public .sector enterprises;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto and the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JVENGAL RAO) (a) to (c) A Report of the Economic Advisory Council on "Public Enterprises in Indra—some current issues" mentions some reasons -for the Pcyr performance of many of the public sector projects such as trade policy, inappropriate location, improper technology irrational product mix and imposed marketina ngernent. The Government is laware of the reasons for the poor performance of- the public sector enterprises and are taking several measures for improving their performance, such as technological upgradation; modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipments; adoption for improved mainteaance practices; product diversification and improvement in product mix.